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*Registered deaths and annual death rates per 1,000 population in certain large cities of the United States, week ended Mar. 22, 1919—Deaths from all causes, and from pneumonia (all forms) and influenza combined.*

| City.                 | Population<br>July 1,<br>1918,<br>estimated. | Total<br>deaths,<br>all<br>causes. | Annual<br>death rate<br>per 1,000. | Annual<br>death rate<br>for preced-<br>ing year. <sup>1</sup> | Influenza and<br>pneumonia (all<br>forms). |                                    |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                       |                                              |                                    |                                    |                                                               | Number<br>of<br>deaths.                    | Annual<br>death rate<br>per 1,000. |
| Albany, N. Y.         | 112,565                                      | 56                                 | 25.9                               | C 20.8                                                        | 27                                         | 12.5                               |
| Atlanta, Ga.          | 201,732                                      | 57                                 | 14.7                               | C 13.2                                                        |                                            |                                    |
| Baltimore, Md.        | 2 669,981                                    | 219                                | 17.0                               | A 21.0                                                        |                                            |                                    |
| Birmingham, Ala.      | 197,670                                      | 52                                 | 13.7                               | A 17.2                                                        |                                            |                                    |
| Boston, Mass.         | 785,245                                      | 228                                | 15.1                               | A 18.3                                                        | 43                                         | 2.9                                |
| Buffalo, N. Y.        | 473,229                                      | 163                                | 18.0                               | C 15.9                                                        | 20                                         | 2.2                                |
| Cambridge, Mass.      | 111,432                                      | 38                                 | 17.8                               | A 15.6                                                        | 8                                          | 3.7                                |
| Chicago, Ill.         | 2,596,681                                    | 803                                | 16.1                               | A 17.3                                                        |                                            |                                    |
| Cincinnati, Ohio.     | 418,022                                      | 220                                | 27.4                               | C 20.0                                                        | 100                                        | 12.5                               |
| Cleveland, Ohio.      | 810,306                                      | 281                                | 18.1                               | C 13.5                                                        | 134                                        | 8.6                                |
| Columbus, Ohio.       | 225,296                                      | 98                                 | 22.7                               | C 18.3                                                        | 49                                         | 11.3                               |
| Dayton, Ohio.         | 130,655                                      | 54                                 | 21.6                               | C 14.4                                                        | 17                                         | 0.8                                |
| Denver, Colo.         |                                              | 88                                 |                                    |                                                               |                                            |                                    |
| Fall River, Mass.     | 128,392                                      | 37                                 | 15.0                               | C 21.9                                                        | 11                                         | 4.5                                |
| Grand Rapids, Mich.   | 135,450                                      | 43                                 | 16.6                               | C 15.8                                                        |                                            |                                    |
| Indianapolis, Ind.    | 289,577                                      | 145                                | 26.1                               | C 16.2                                                        |                                            |                                    |
| Jersey City, N. J.    | 318,770                                      | 136                                | 22.2                               | C 22.4                                                        |                                            |                                    |
| Kansas City, Mo.      | 313,785                                      | 154                                | 25.6                               | C 24.6                                                        | 59                                         | 9.8                                |
| Los Angeles, Calif.   | 508,495                                      | 173                                | 15.9                               | A 14.3                                                        | 19                                         | 1.7                                |
| Louisville, Ky.       | 242,707                                      | 179                                | 38.5                               | C 21.1                                                        | 87                                         | 18.7                               |
| Lowell, Mass.         | 109,081                                      | 40                                 | 19.1                               | A 18.7                                                        | 8                                          | 3.8                                |
| Memphis, Tenn.        | 154,759                                      | 111                                | 37.4                               | C 20.2                                                        | 24                                         | 8.1                                |
| Milwaukee, Wis.       | 453,481                                      | 130                                | 14.9                               | A 15.0                                                        | 46                                         | 5.3                                |
| Minneapolis, Minn.    | 383,442                                      | 125                                | 17.0                               | C 12.8                                                        |                                            |                                    |
| Nashville, Tenn.      | 119,215                                      | 56                                 | 24.5                               | C 24.5                                                        | 22                                         | 9.6                                |
| Newark, N. J.         | 428,684                                      | 147                                | 17.9                               | C 21.3                                                        | 42                                         | 5.1                                |
| New Haven, Conn.      | 154,865                                      | 42                                 | 14.1                               | C 18.9                                                        | 10                                         | 3.4                                |
| New Orleans, La.      | 382,273                                      | 136                                | 18.6                               | A 22.0                                                        | 18                                         | 2.5                                |
| New York, N. Y.       | 5,215,879                                    | 1,815                              | 18.1                               | C 22.5                                                        | 544                                        | 5.4                                |
| Oakland, Calif.       | 214,206                                      | 44                                 | 10.7                               | A 12.3                                                        |                                            |                                    |
| Omaha, Nebr.          | 180,264                                      | 52                                 | 15.0                               | C 13.9                                                        |                                            |                                    |
| Philadelphia, Pa.     | 1,761,371                                    | 611                                | 18.1                               | * 18.1                                                        | 154                                        | 4.6                                |
| Pittsburgh, Pa.       | 593,303                                      | 259                                | 22.8                               | C 20.0                                                        | 114                                        | 10.0                               |
| Portland, Oreg.       |                                              | 73                                 |                                    |                                                               | 18                                         |                                    |
| Providence, R. I.     | 263,613                                      | 79                                 | 15.6                               | C 17.2                                                        | 12                                         | 2.4                                |
| Richmond, Va.         | 160,719                                      | 58                                 | 18.8                               | C 17.2                                                        | 11                                         | 3.6                                |
| Rochester, N. Y.      | 264,856                                      | 93                                 | 18.3                               | C 15.2                                                        | 19                                         | 3.7                                |
| St. Louis, Mo.        | 779,951                                      | 309                                | 20.7                               | C 16.8                                                        | 119                                        | 8.0                                |
| San Francisco, Calif. | 478,530                                      | 148                                | 16.1                               | C 19.1                                                        | 13                                         | 1.4                                |
| Seattle, Wash.        |                                              | 50                                 |                                    |                                                               | 5                                          |                                    |
| Spokane, Wash.        |                                              | 32                                 |                                    |                                                               |                                            |                                    |
| Syracuse, N. Y.       | 161,404                                      | 52                                 | 16.8                               | C 14.9                                                        | 5                                          | 1.6                                |
| Toledo, Ohio.         | 262,234                                      | 105                                | 20.9                               | A 14.5                                                        | 30                                         | 6.0                                |
| Washington, D. C.     | 401,681                                      | 152                                | 19.7                               | A 19.3                                                        | 26                                         | 3.4                                |
| Worcester, Mass.      | 173,650                                      | 71                                 | 21.3                               | C 14.4                                                        | 13                                         | 3.9                                |

<sup>1</sup> "A" indicates that the rate given is the average annual death rate per 1,000 population for the corresponding week of the years 1913 to 1917, inclusive. "C" indicates that the rate is the annual death rate per 1,000 population for the corresponding week of 1918.

<sup>2</sup> Population estimated as of July 1, 1919.

<sup>3</sup> Rate is based on statistics of 1915, 1916, and 1917.

## NARCOTIC DRUGS—INTERPRETATION OF HARRISON ACT.

COURT DECIDES THAT PHYSICIAN WHO GIVES PRESCRIPTION DISPENSES THE DRUG.

In construing the Harrison antinarcotic act<sup>1</sup> the United States district court for the western district of Pennsylvania has decided<sup>2</sup> that a person charged with dispensing narcotic drugs in violation of the act can not escape punishment by setting up the plea that he was not the owner of the drugs dispensed.

<sup>1</sup> Reprint 338 from the Pub. Health Repts., p. 589.

<sup>2</sup> United States v. Jin Fuey Moy, 253 Federal Reporter, 213.

Section 2 of the Harrison act makes it unlawful to "sell, barter, exchange, or give away," with certain exceptions, any of the drugs mentioned in section 1 of the act. The defendant, a physician, was charged with unlawfully dispensing drugs not in the course of his professional practice. The evidence showed that he had issued a great many prescriptions for the drugs, but he contended that he had committed no offense, because the words "sell, barter, exchange, or give away" could only apply to owners of the drugs.

In rejecting this contention the court said:

It is insisted that to dispense or distribute the drugs on a prescription is not to sell, barter, exchange, or give them away. It is held in *United States v. Stowell* (133 U. S. 1, 10 Sup. Ct. 244, 33 L. Ed. 555) that statutes enacted to prevent frauds upon the revenue are considered as enacted for the public good and to suppress a public wrong, and, therefore, although they may impose penalties or forfeitures, are to be fairly and reasonably construed so as to carry out the intention of the legislature. It could hardly be said that words of so broad import as "sell, barter, exchange, or give away," when standing together, were intended by Congress to be so narrowly and strictly construed as to include only those cases where title to the prescribed drug was in him who undertook to dispense or distribute it. The lawmakers were not concerned with the ownership of the drug, but with its unlawful distribution. It could matter nothing to the poor victim in the fatal clutches of the drug habit where title was to the narcotic which was thus dispensed to him, every grain of which brought him nearer to the grave. Whether the victim procured the drug from the hand of the physician or through the druggist on an order or prescription of the physician can matter nothing, unless we look blindly at the letter of the act, wholly forgetting its spirit and purpose.

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## EPIDEMIC INFLUENZA.

### PREVALENCE IN THE UNITED STATES.

A decided decrease in the number of reported cases of influenza throughout the United States is shown by telegraphic reports for the week ended March 29. (See pp. 696 and 700.)

A recrudescence of the disease is reported in the western part of Kansas, and the number of cases reported in the State of Vermont is slightly greater than for the preceding week. With these exceptions decreases are noted in all States from which reports have been received.